

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 17 as follows:

The bonding site on a stainless steel hypotube is cleaned and polished using a very fine sandpaper. The bonding site is then washed using detergent and water to remove any remaining residual debris from the hypotube. The cleaned parts are then placed into a 65 degree Centigrade oven until dried. A 1% solution of neopentyl(diallyl)oxy, tri(N-ethylenediamino) ethyl titanate ~~tris(2-ethylenediamino)-ethylate~~ (tradename LICA 44 from Kenrich Petrochemicals, Inc., of Bayonne, New Jersey) is then brushed over the bonding site on the hypotube's surface. The hypotube is then again placed within the 65 degree Centigrade oven for 30 minutes to dry the bonding site surface. The dried hypotube is then washed twice and dried. A portion of a polymeric tubular member is then disposed over the bonding site. The bonding site is then placed within a thermal bonding machine that subjects the bonding site, in particular, to a temperature of 400 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 seconds to form the lap joint.